



F·R·I·E·N·D·S

OF NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Supporting Friends of the Library Statewide

F * R * I * E * N * D * S TALK

October 2026

Dear Friends,

Election Season!

Bet you couldn't tell.... Are you tired of all the political commercials on the radio, television, computer news feeds, newspapers, and magazines? Is your physical mailbox filled with flyers and requests for donations for political parties and/or candidates? Election Day will be here soon, and then we may get back to normal - whatever that is. I know you are all planning to vote and hope you are considering carefully candidates who have expressed or demonstrated support for public libraries. If you haven't heard them express an opinion, ASK THEM! Get them to talk about their experiences with libraries (including their school libraries) in their communities as children, teens, adults, etc. I trust you all to do your due diligence in this regard.

Important Announcement!

HELP WANTED - Newsletter Editor Extraordinaire - because it will take someone like that to replace our current editor, Judy Hills (also past board president and a hard act to follow for me). Characteristics needed include someone who is curious, creative, aware, computer savvy, and familiar with programs for creating newsletters. When I say aware, this person needs to have his/her finger on the pulse of libraries, Friends groups, state and national legislation, etc. I know I've forgotten something. . . .; but, I hope I haven't scared you to death if you might be interested in joining us in the editor's position. I hope my email inbox is filled with inter-

ested applicants. Please!

One of our favorite programs is our Awards and Grants program. Karen Schrader, the Awards and Grants Chair, has been busy accepting, sorting, and sharing the entries for each of these categories. We are so pleased with the response to those categories. We like recognizing outstanding volunteers and assisting Friends groups with programs and projects they want to provide in and for their libraries. The finalists will be shared and celebrated in the November issue of this newsletter. I hope your name will be there. . . .

Now, if you will indulge me, I need to brag a little about our used bookstore in Sparta. We just had our second whole-store half-price sale of the year. It was one of the most successful we have ever had. The first day of the sale was a Friday and the store was packed with folks from the moment we opened until we closed. The weather helped. It was a sunny, cool day. Some of our regulars came with their lists (some even came the day before to check to see if their favorite books were available). We had a group of book-buyers who bought crates full for resale. The advantage to all of this is that now we have some room to bring out new selections that have been in storage. We also have a new "Little Free Library" ready to install and another "under construction." What fun!

Yours in Friendship,

Joyce Speas, President

Applying the 70/30 Rule to Friends Membership Recruitment

by Cindy Shipley

The 70/30 rule in business is a versatile guiding principle that divides professional effort, focus, or communication into a 70% primary priority and a 30% supporting action. Depending on how it is applied, this ratio helps organizations and leaders maximize efficiency rather than spreading themselves too thin.

For a Friends of the Library organization, your membership base is the engine that drives your volunteer pool, donation revenue, and community advocacy. Applying the 70/30 rule to recruitment helps you keep your reliable base stable while strategically hunting for new demographics.

Here is how to break down your recruitment strategy:

1. The 70% Baseline: Retention & Traditional Drives

Focus most of your energy on keeping the members you already have and utilizing proven, organic sign-up methods.

- **Member Renewal Campaigns:** It is much easier to retain an existing member than to recruit a new one. Allocate 70% of your administrative touchpoints to seamless annual renewals, thank-you notes, and keeping current members informed of their impact.
- **In-Library Sign-Ups:** Leverage your physical space where foot traffic is already high. Keep membership brochures at the circulation desk, near the used bookstore, and inside returned books (with permission).
- **The "Word of Mouth" Catalyst:** Encourage your current base to bring a friend. Often, your existing members are your best recruiters when equipped with a simple elevator pitch about what the Friends do.

2. The 30% Innovation: Expansion & Modern Outreach

Dedicate a smaller, focused portion of your efforts to experimenting with new recruit-

ment channels that target demographics you aren't currently reaching.

- **Digital & Social-First Sign-Ups:** If your current members skew older, use your 30% effort to target younger demographics (millennials, young families, and remote workers) via Instagram, Facebook local groups, or a streamlined QR code on digital library newsletters.
- **Low-Barrier Entry Points:** Instead of asking busy people straight for an annual membership fee or a monthly meeting commitment, create alternative entry points. For example, invite them to a "one-off" volunteer event (like a massive book sorting day) or offer a low-cost digital-only supporter tier.
- **Community Partnerships:** Team up with local businesses or community groups. Offer a joint initiative—such as a library card/Friends sign-up drive at a local farmers market, a neighborhood block party, or a local café.

Quick Implementation Checklist for Your Next Drive

- **Audit your current efforts:** Are you spending 100% of your time panicking over dropping numbers, or do you have a steady baseline?
- **Protect the core:** Set up automated renewal reminders for current members so they don't slip through the cracks.
- **Test one new 30% idea:** Pick one modern experiment for your next drive—such as adding a "Join Online in 60 Seconds" button to your library's webpage or setting up a table at a non-traditional community event.

Email Template for the 70/30 Rule by Cindy Shipley

Here is a recruitment email template designed using the 70/30 rule.

Much of the email (70%) focuses on community value, celebrating the library, and showing appreciation, while the remaining 30% introduces the invitation to join the Friends group and the tangible benefits of doing so.

Subject: Did you know your library card can do *this*? (+ An invitation from the Friends)

Hi [First Name],

Libraries have always been places to find a good book, but our local library has grown into a vibrant community hub that offers so much more than shelves and stacks.

We wanted to take a moment to share a few incredible things happening right now at the library that you might not know about:

- **Beyond Books:** Did you know you can check out museum passes, tool kits, and streaming educational resources with your library card?
- **Digital Hub Access:** Free access to world-class language learning software, ancestry databases, and high-speed Wi-Fi is available to every resident.

Spaces for All: From bustling children's story hours to quiet study pods and teen coding clubs, thousands of community members find connection and inspiration here every single month.

The [Name of Library] is truly the beating heart of our town, and it thrives because of passionate community members like you who value lifelong learning and shared spaces.

Want to help us champion and support these programs?

The Friends of the [Name of Library] is a dedicated group of volunteers and advocates who raise funds, sponsor children's literacy programs, and support library staff.

When you become a member of the Friends, you aren't just paying dues—you are directly fueling the library's next big chapter. Plus, members enjoy exclusive benefits, including:

- Early VIP access and discounts at our seasonal book sales.
- Invitations to special author talks and member-only preview nights.

The satisfaction of knowing you are keeping our library strong and accessible for everyone.

[Button/Link: Join the Friends Today - Memberships start at just \$15/year]

Thank you for being a vital part of our community. We hope to see you at the library soon!

Warmly,

[Your Name/Title]

Friends of the [Name of Library]

[Contact Information / Website Link]



Smartphone Photography Tips

Last month we encouraged you to take photos using a larger file size so the photos you take could be enlarged for use in newsletters, on Facebook, and on websites. This month we'll tackle a few of the finer points on taking a good, usable photo.

- A newer model phone. The camera and editing features on the newer models make taking better photos easier. The magic eraser is especially good for removing unwanted backgrounds.
- Framing. It is just as important to decide what you don't want in the photo as what you do want. Clean up your background if you can. Move that trash receptacle. Move the person so the potted plant isn't coming out of their head. What do you want to feature?
- Rule of thirds. This is not an absolute in photography, but it is a good rule of thumb for creating interesting and engaging photos. [Click here](#) to read about it.
- Study what you consider to be good photos and try to recreate them.
- Capture the action. Static photos are fine if the person is receiving an award, but not if the photo needs to show a volunteer helping someone at a book sale.
- Lighting. Don't shoot into the sun, into a bright window, or toward a light source. Your images in the foreground will be black. Use natural light to your advantage when you can.
- Move around. Frame the picture from different angles for interest.
- Take a moment to get to know your subject. A relaxed person will smile more.
- Get permission. Not everyone wants their

photo taken. Be especially careful to ask permission when photographing children where their faces or distinguishing features will be seen. Make sure they know how you might use the image.

- Edit your photos. It is rare that your pictures will be perfect right out of the camera. Learn to edit them to make them the best they can be. Many times all it needs is cropping and lighting. Again the editing features on the newer cell phone are very good and easy to use.
- Experiment and practice. You'll get better the more pictures you take and edit.

On the next page is the original shot (before) and the photo after editing. First we cropped the photo to get rid of the pencil on the table and also too much of the table itself. This helps the eye to focus on the subject and not the distracting foreground. Then, using the magic eraser we eliminated background distractions and the cell phone on the table. Finally we used the AI enhance feature which lightened up the subject so her facial features could be seen better. This is almost always needed for those with dark complexions.

The second picture is just a simple crop to help the eye focus on the subjects rather than the distracting background "noise."

Practice makes perfect, as the old adage goes. Do practice and perfect the photos you take of your Friends and their events.

See before/after photos on next page.



BEFORE



AFTER





Public Libraries Stand United for E-book Pricing Action

Leading organizations representing the vast majority of public libraries across the U.S. and Canada are calling for change in the models available for libraries to provide access to digital content

In public library systems large and small, urban and rural, demand for access to digital content like e-books and e-audiobooks has exploded, becoming an indispensable part of the way our patrons learn, work, and interact.

Digital content allows patrons with disabilities, seniors, or people served by libraries too far away to easily visit to benefit from the public library like never before. However, this access is under a real threat because the terms under which libraries license this material are increasingly unsustainable.

The e-book licensing status quo is a crisis for public libraries and patrons across North America.

While consumers pay \$13 in perpetuity for an e-book on average, libraries typically spend \$55 – or more – for one 2-year license. Many libraries are now spending 50% or more of their collections budgets – taxpayer funds – on disappearing, limited-access content, giving them less ability to support lesser-known authors and smaller publishers. Meanwhile, wait times for readers of all ages have exploded, as libraries spend more to get less in our digital collection. As a direct result, U.S. states and Canadian provinces are increasingly turning to consumer protection legislation as a response to this untenable situation.

We can and must do better for our readers, authors, libraries, and publishers to advance literacy, cultural enrichment, and lifelong learning for all.

Our organizations, representing the vast majority of public libraries across the US and Canada, call on the Big Five publishers, as well as platform providers, to come to the table to work with libraries to identify and implement sustainable solutions, no matter the format.

Mutually-beneficial solutions exist. These include the importance of usage-based e-book models that guarantee our communities actually have access to the materials their libraries have paid for, and the option for libraries to purchase perpetual-use models so we can ensure the preservation of knowledge remains a cornerstone of the public library.

Public libraries protect copyright and invest millions of dollars in curating collections that increase author discovery and promote titles and reading, and our book borrowers are book buyers. We're important partners for publishers, and have shared concerns including declining literacy rates and fighting threats to intellectual freedom.

It's time for a new dynamic, based in collaboration and mutual respect, that can build off those shared interests. It's time to finally address – rather than ignore – this crisis.

This helps everyone – libraries, authors, patrons, publishers – thrive.

THE E-BOOK PRICING CRISIS

Solutions That Work For Libraries, Authors, and Publishers

URBAN
LIBRARIES
COUNCIL



THE PROBLEM:

Demand for e-books is soaring. ULC libraries have seen an average 58% increase in electronic circulation since 2019, but the cost of e-books for libraries is also soaring:

Consumers pay \$13 in perpetuity for an e-book on average, while libraries typically pay \$55 or more for one 2-year license, limited to checkout by a single user, according to [industry research](#).

- Physical books are owned by the library, while most digital content is licensed for a limited time, much like a subscription
- More and more of taxpayer-funded library budgets are eaten up licensing e-books at unreasonably high prices, while libraries get less for their money: many urban libraries spend 50% or more of their collections budgets on e-books, audiobooks, and other digital content
- The bottom line: while some publishers have subscriptions that are sustainable for libraries, the majority of current e-book licensing models are unsustainable for libraries
- So far, the Big Five publishers have resisted engaging with libraries on alternative models that could be agreeable to libraries and creators – resulting in legislation at the state and provincial level

LIBRARIES ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE BUSINESS OF READING

The narrative that libraries operate at the expense of authors or publishers is false. Libraries are essential to the publishing industry, by increasing literacy rates, creating lifelong readers, purchasing millions of books annually, and promoting local and national authors.



- Libraries are big business for publishers and authors: a ULC estimate of our nearly 200 member base found that the largest library systems alone each spend over \$4 million on average annually on e-books and e-audiobooks, while their medium-sized peers spend \$2 million on average. This means that for ULC member libraries alone, the total licensing costs for these materials is at least \$300 million (compared to about [\\$4.5 billion in overall US e-book and e-audiobook sales](#))

Tribute to Dolly Parton

I think everybody should be treated with respect... I hope that everybody gets a chance to be who and what they are."

Dolly Parton

What would Dolly do? Certainly not keep books away from children to "protect" them. She spoke often about her love and respect for all different kinds of people. She knew that the more stories children hear, the more they can make sense of the world and understand one another. She believed that stories matter.

"It was her sincere love of people, her acceptance of people of all races, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, and abilities that made her special." *Why We All Loved Dolly* Tulsa Kids, August 26, 2026 Diane Morrow-Kondos

We all need to channel Dolly right now. Pen America is tracking expanding censorship in public libraries, including book removals, contested displays, silencing story times and authors, resolving mandates and prejudicial labeling.

If you don't typically follow censorship news, you should. Recently Pen America has tracked the increasing number of book challenges, removals or re-shelving of nonfiction books. That's right. Books that provide factual information of all kinds are making some people unduly uncomfortable these days.

According to Pen America, "over 1,100 unique titles that are educational or informational books for young people—textbooks or reference texts on a wide range of subjects" have been targeted in the past year. In fact 29% of book censorship targets are nonfiction books. And of those books, "1,102 nonfiction titles banned, 52% contained themes of activism and social movements, the most commonly banned topic within nonfiction titles".

Many other titles are by or about people of color or women.

This is disturbing in so many ways, but primarily because it limits to materials available for research, study, and debate. It eliminates uncomfortable or difficult subjects that students need to explore to understand their place in the world.



Is it any wonder that test scores are plummeting for American children? Many of our school children don't read a book for pleasure all year. School classroom libraries are gutted, and school librarians are under attack in many districts. If children can't get books they love, why would they read? And now good non-fiction is under attack as well.

Let's keep our eyes open and be ready to stand up for literacy the way Dolly did, by being sure books make into the hands of our children and our citizens. It's not politics. Dolly eschewed political affiliations. It's literacy.

"Dolly Parton... (three) times declined the Presidential Medal of Freedom also declined the Literarian Award. According to the Foundation's executive director, Ruth Dickey, Parton 'graciously declined each time saying that she didn't need the recognition.'" The Literarian is a lifetime achievement award! National Book Award Foundation

Please support your library, librarians, and schools. Look for Banned Books Week this month.

National Friends of the Library Week

CELEBRATE YOUR FRIENDS GROUP OCT. 18-24, 2026

Friends of Libraries groups have their very own national week of celebration! United for Libraries will coordinate the 21st annual National Friends of Libraries Week Oct. 18-24, 2026. The celebration offers a two-fold opportunity to celebrate Friends. Use the time to creatively promote your group in the community, to raise awareness, and to promote membership. This is also an excellent opportunity for your library and Board of Trustees to recognize the Friends for their help and support of the library.

CELEBRATION IDEAS AND RESOURCES:

[Sign up](#) to receive editable PR and Marketing Materials, including a sample press release that can be customized for your library/Friends group, and editable promotional flyers. Submit the request form to receive:

- Promotional graphics for Facebook and Instagram
- Editable flyers
- Sample press release
- Sample letter to the editor
- Sample proclamation

[Buy NFOLW merchandise](#) for your Friends group and/or library

[Ideas for Friends Groups](#)

[Ideas for Libraries](#)

Hashtags; [#NationalFriendsofLibrariesWeek](#), [#friendsofthelibrary](#), [#libraryfriends](#)

WEBINARS

[Get Ready for National Friends of Libraries Week!](#)

Library Friends groups of all sizes will learn new and innovative ideas for celebrating National Friends of Libraries Week. Find out

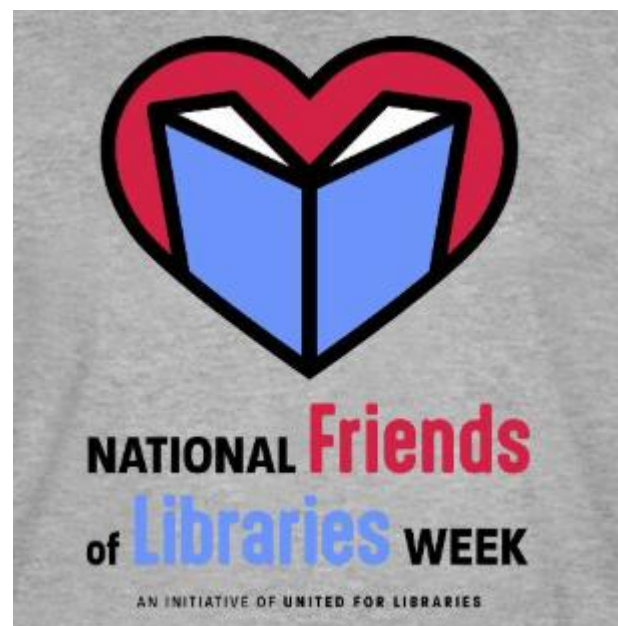
how to kick off your planning, what free materials are available to download, and how to engage your library and community. [View the recording of this webinar.](#)

[Making the Most of National Friends of Libraries Week](#) with Minnesota Association of Library Friends (MALF)

What is National Friends of Libraries Week, exactly? In short, it is what you make of it! United for Libraries provides Friends with a library of actionable ideas and material templates. Ultimately, though, it falls to organizers in every participating community to determine just how they mark the occasion. [View the recording of this webinar.](#)

Friendraising & Fundraising Ideas for Friends Groups and Libraries of All Sizes

Hear from Friends of the Library groups across the country about their unique and scalable fundraisers and how they work with the library to raise funds and support. A Q&A session will follow. [View the recording of this webinar.](#)



Decline of Nursery Rhymes: Meaning for Early Literacy

This article by Elizabeth Heubeck appeared in EdWeek. [Click here](#) to read the full article.

**Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.**

How many young children today have heard or know this nursery rhyme?

Kindergarten readiness often focuses on early literacy abilities, such as recognizing letters, identifying beginning sounds, matching letters with sounds, and understanding rhyming words. For parents, these expectations may seem overwhelming. However, one of the simplest ways to help children develop these skills requires no special materials or training: nursery rhymes.

Nursery rhymes have been part of childhood for generations. They are easy to remember, entertaining, and naturally encourage children to repeat sounds and words. W. Steven Barnett, director of the National Institute for Early Education Research, describes them as remarkably simple yet effective tools for engaging children and supporting their development. However, nursery rhymes appear to be disappearing from many children's everyday experiences.

Experts have noticed that fewer children arrive at school familiar with traditional rhymes. Nursery rhymes also seem to have become less common in preschool and kindergarten classrooms. This decline may matter because rhymes provide children with an enjoyable introduction to language.

Children are naturally attracted to rhythm, repetition, and playful sounds. Nursery rhymes expose them to vocabulary, sentence patterns, pronunciation, tone, and the sounds within words. Because the language is often

presented through music or rhythm, children can learn without feeling as though they are completing a formal lesson. Reading and language specialist Sufia Alamgir has observed that many children today encounter plenty of music through digital media but have fewer opportunities to sing and recite traditional songs and rhymes.

Another concern is the decline in reading aloud. Research has consistently shown that reading to children can support vocabulary, comprehension, and future reading success. Yet classroom schedules can leave limited time for enjoyable read-aloud activities. Research conducted in elementary classrooms has found that much literacy instruction is devoted to phonics, comprehension lessons, and small-group activities.

Studies also support the specific value of nursery rhymes. Research has found connections between children's knowledge of rhymes in early childhood and later reading and spelling abilities. Other research suggests that combining music with nursery rhymes can improve children's verbal memory.

Parents also play an important role in introducing children to rhymes and books. However, shared reading has declined in many households. Increased screen use may be one factor, as children are spending more time with tablets, phones, and other digital media. Some parents may also avoid nursery rhymes because they consider them outdated or unfamiliar. Others may not remember the rhymes themselves because they did not grow up with them.

As nursery rhymes become less common, children may miss a simple and enjoyable opportunity to develop early language skills.

Continued on next

Decline of Nursery Rhymes: Meaning for Early Literacy (continued)

Although schools can teach phonemic awareness through structured instruction, rhymes offer something different: learning through repetition, rhythm, imagination, and fun.

Preserving nursery rhymes does not mean replacing modern teaching methods. Instead, families and educators can use them alongside other literacy activities. A few minutes of singing or reciting each day can help children build language skills while creating meaningful moments of connection. As Barnett suggests, these traditions contain valuable knowledge about supporting children's development—and they are worth preserving.



That Raggedy Paper Cover Might Add Thousands to That Old Book

Don't you just hate it when you get an old book that might possibly be worth something only to have the dust cover missing? Some readers see the cover as a nuisance, while a collector might see it as the most valuable part of the book. It might add tens of thousands of dollars to a first edition's value.

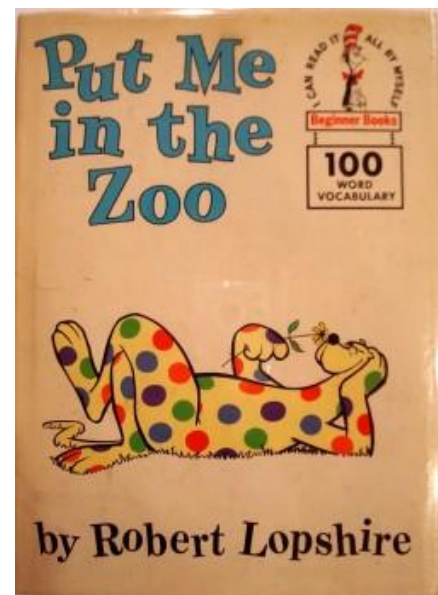
Originally dust covers were designed to protect hardback books from wear and tear. They were tossed when they had achieved their purpose. Collectors now look for books with the dustcovers.

So how might you tell if that old book that was just donated is valuable. Here a few clues:

- **Look for a first edition.** This is usually stated on the copyright page, although wording varies across publishers.
- **Keep the dust jacket.** Even if it's faded or slightly torn, it could significantly increase the book's value.
- **Check the condition.** Books and jackets with minimal damage tend to be worth more, but don't assume a worn cover has no value.
- **Look for signed copies.** An author's signature can make a book much more desirable to collectors.

- **Research before you part with it.** Compare sold prices online or use a book valuation service if you think you have something unusual.

Those books that fit these criteria might be worth having a professional old book seller value them. But should you find that the book is just that, an old book, don't discard it! Put it in your sale. Some Friends that do this have sold many old books to crafters.



POST IN NOVEMBER



- Library borrowers are also book buyers: access to a library has never meant customers stop buying books – [a study from Canada](#) found over half of library users also bought new books, and another study found [1 in 3 respondents bought a book](#) online or from a bookstore that they first found in a library
- High prices for libraries hurt emerging authors: if libraries cannot afford to build a balanced collection, they prioritize what's currently popular over exposing customers to new or lesser known writers

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS:

Libraries are eager for dialogue to develop mutually beneficial models with publishers, an open conversation about exploring alternatives acceptable to all parties – ones that use taxpayer funds responsibly while protecting the interests of creators and publishers.

Here are two potential concrete fixes to start a dialogue with the largest publishers:

1 Time-metered e-book licenses (e.g. 1- 2 year licenses) are rarely a responsible use of taxpayer funds – **library licenses should be based on usage.**

- The bottom line: libraries are using taxpayer funds to pay for items they're not getting full use out of
- The current model makes the cost-per-usage higher, while taking a chance on new authors riskier

2 An option of perpetual licenses for mid- and backlist titles would work better for public libraries – and **many libraries are willing to pay a premium for such access.**

- Perpetual licenses are **not about ownership**. They're about libraries maintaining their ability to **build and sustain a collection** after initial demand has waned
- As demand for popular works subsides, perpetual license options could present an attractive continued revenue stream for publishers and authors
- **Such licenses have a precedent**: all Big Five publishers once offered them, and several continue to provide perpetual access to audiobooks to this day alongside many independent publishers
- Greater flexibility means up-and-coming authors can find new audiences

Who Owns Your Checking Account?

During recent consultations with Friends' groups we ran across two concerning issues that we want to bring to your attention, in case your Friends might be in the same situation. They both involve the organization's checking account. In one case it was found that the EIN of Group A was being used on the bank account of Group B. An Employer Identification Number is a unique nine-digit number assigned by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to identify a business or organization for tax purposes. In another case it was found that the Friends' bank checking account was set up using an individual's name and Social Security Number.

The first case will probably need an attorney to sort it out, but the second case should have never had happened. Why is this problematic, you might ask? What follows is not legal or financial advice, but is shared here to help you understand the possible issues that might arise.

If you have a treasurer or other group member who is willing to supply their SSN to the bank, then a bank account may be established with the name of the individual, not the Friend's group. However, you cannot easily change the SSN number associated with the bank account, and should the individual supplying the SSN decide they no longer wish to be associated with the bank account; the

group would likely need to establish a new bank account. The bank account will be the property of the individual, not the group. Further, any information that the bank reports to the US Treasury Department related to the account would be attributed to the individual, not the group. Amounts associated with group bank accounts may be nominal, and an individual may be willing to take on this responsibility and duty.

Even some groups that have existed for a very long time may have been set up this way—with an individual's name and SSN on the account. Have you ever checked your account to see that your group's name and EIN are on it?

An EIN can be obtained in a matter of minutes on the IRS website. [Click here.](#) The IRS website says you should establish your group as a nonprofit corporation with the state prior to seeking an EIN to prevent complications and to avoid delays.

Those Friends groups that are not yet incorporated in the state of NC, should do so. Every Friend's group should also have an NC Charitable Solicitation License or CLC Exemption (for those with small budgets). Both these designations help establish your group's creditability.



How Might Friends Help Homeschoolers?

There is a lot of controversy surrounding homeschoolers. Libraries are sometimes caught in the middle as they are primarily funded with public funds, the same funds that support public schools. Every homeschooled child represents a financial loss of state and local tax funding to the public school system. Therefore, libraries that support homeschoolers might draw unwanted heat for that decision.

So, why might Friends of the Library groups want to help families that choose to homeschool their children? Reasons might include: 1) to build strong community ties; 2) to boost library usage; and 3) to help families find learning tools. And, of course, to be members of your Friends! These reasons should align with your mission.

If your group decides to help these families, what specifically might you do to accomplish that objective? Here are some ideas for your consideration.

- Understand the challenges and the issues by educating yourselves.
- Survey or meet with a representative group of homeschoolers to find out what they specifically need. Host a morning meet & greet at a local coffee shop or library. Build relationships.
- Provide needed books, media kits, science kits, STEM tools, curriculum guides, and other educational tools to the library for families to check out.
- Sponsor daytime rooms or clubs so homeschooled children can meet peers and make friends.
- Host arts & craft sessions, skill workshops, creative writing, or other interesting educational programs.
- Provide volunteer opportunities.
- Host intergenerational activities to include homeschoolers.
- Sponsor/host guest speakers or science workshops held during the weekday.

- Organize curriculum swaps where families can donate, sell or trade used textbooks and learning materials.
- Provide museum passes.
- Alert homeschoolers to your book sale and give them early access to select material they need.
- If they need a communications hub, set up a resource page for them on your website.
- Host Zoom educational sessions.
- If you identify a specific event that might be of interest, forward that to them.
- Apply for grants for any of these needs on their behalf. Use data to present your case.
- Use AI to help draft plans, grant narratives, or plans.

Here are a few links to sites of interest:

- [Article: Comparing NC Homeschooling](#)
- [North Carolinians for Home Education](#)
- [The HomeschoolMom NC](#)
- [NC Homeschool-ology](#)
- [NC Homeschooling](#)
- [Complying with NC Homeschool law](#)
- [John Hopkins SOE NC data](#)

As you will discover, this group has needs and your Friends might just be the missing link to connect them to resources. Take a risk and at least explore this option to be of service.





**Friends of North Carolina
Public Libraries**

Helping Friends Build Resilience

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CALENDAR

All material for the newsletter is due to editor **Judy Hills** by the 25th of each month.

Click here for the 2026 Calendar of National Events—use these to plan your activities.

FONCPL Board Zoom Meetings 10 AM quarterly

Here are a few dates of note:

October

Oct 4-10 Banned Books Week

10/5 Child Health Day

10/7 Random acts of poetry day

10/10 National Chess Day

10/11 National coming out day

10/12 Farmers Day

10/12 Columbus Day

10/12 Indigenous People's Day

10/13 Navy Birthday

10/16 Boss's Day

Oct 18-24 National Friends of the Library Week

10/24 National Make a Difference Day

10/31 National Magic Day

10/31 Halloween



November

11/1 National Authors Day

11/1 Daylight Saving Time ends

11/2 All Souls' Day

11/8 National STEAM/STEM Day

11/8-11/14 National StoryWalk Week

11/9 Carl Sagan Day

11/10 National Young readers' day

11/10 Marine Corps Birthday

11/11 Veterans Day

11/12 Chicken Soup for the Soul Day